

SCIENCE IS JUST KNOWING, NOT GUESSING

Now a sign is just a symptom.

straighter line than now on

weather.
In other words, why shouldn't the

farmer substitute knowing for guess-ing about his favorite weather signs? Take that oldest and best known

"Evening red and morning gray
Will speed the traveller on his way;
But evening gray and morning red.
Will bring down rain on the pilgrim's

Now no one in his sober senses supposes that God squirts a little extra red dye on to the morning sky just as a warning to the early farmer that it

is likely to rain that day, It is the impending rain which causes that extra redness. But how, and why? Let's stop guessing and try to find out.

There's the rainbow. Its bright col-

making, are more or less refracted into color. Also we know that the upper nir is colder than the lower air and that it is the condensation of atmos-

that it is the condensation of atmos-pheric vapor by this cold which pro-duces rain. There you have it; an at-mosphere overcharged with moisture; that moisture lifted higher than nor-mal by the unusually light air; the very conditions of rain indicated be-fore your even.

The redness of the morning sky isn't a "sign" set out by special order for

our special benefit; it is just a symp-tom showing the condition of the air. Having observed the symptom, it is up to the practitioner of agriculture to

enose the probable disturbance

Then there's another old sign;

Then there's another old sign:
"When the swallows fly low look out for rain." That's one of my particular favorites. But why should the swallows know when it is going to rain? The answer is that they don't. They don't know anything about it. They are flying after bugs to eat, snapping them up on the wing. When the atmospheric pressure is such as to induct orecipitation the bugs which the birds are after fly low, close to the

birds are after fly low, close to the surface of the ground, and the swal-lows chase 'em there where they hap-

There are other "signs" however, which have no explanation because they are really neither signs nor symptoms, but just vagaries of credulity or improved.

symptoms, but just vagaries of credulity or ignorance.

I have one neighbor who clings and
always will cling to an absurd idea
that "As many fogs as there are in
February, so many frosts there will be
in May." I have others who actually believe that the last three days of
any given month are weather indicators for the succeeding month. Remembering that our division of the
year into months is purely an arbi-

dertake to poke a few sticks at the wiseacres, they jauntily turn me down with the trite remark: "Oh, well, all signs fail in a dry time."—Never stop-

ping to realize that they wouldn't fail and couldn't fail if they were really

Then there are animal signs. If the

woodchuck comer out and sees his shadow on Candlemas day there is to be another winter. If the squirrels lay

your eyes.

(Written Specially For The Bulletin.) inherited from past farming genera-lit was only an advertisement, but its heading caught my eye. "Science con-lieve them or not, insensibly influence

heading caught my eye. "Science conelists simply in substituting knowing
for guessing," it began.

That was enough for one day, I
didn't read any further. I have not
the faintest idea what the rest of the
advertisement was about. That first
slamming sentence set me off on a
train of reflection which I haven't finished yet. us in some degree. And then there are others who being naturally superstitious, are all the time looking for signa where there aren't any—and sometimes finding them!

The disappointing thing about all the signs which we swear hy is that

The disappointing thing about all the signs which we swear by is that, while they hold good three times out of four, or perhaps nine times out of ten they fail utterly the fourth or tenth time. Which sets some of us guessing and some to wondering and some to a serious attempt to find out the why and wherefore of them. Perhaps it was a little too sweep-Perhaps it was a little too sweep-ing; maybe a little superficial; we won't pretend that it was absolutely all-comprenhensive. But, so far as it went, it was a pretty good defini-tion, now wasn't it?

tion, now wasn't it?

But it isn't that big subject which I am thinking about, this morning. It is just one small phase of it. I mean that part which is still dependent with a great many upon "signs"—weather signs, wind signs, cloud signs, sun signs, bird signs, worm signs, animal signs—all sorts of signs. Now a sign is just a symptom, it isn't the weather any more than a symptom is the disease. The disease is the cause of the symptom; the weather, actual or prospective, is the cause of the sign. If the doctor knows the why of the symptom he can usually get a straight line on the real disease. If the farmer knows the why of his weather signs, he might get a straighter line than now on the

I don't suppose there is a farmer anywhere in the country, no matter how many barometers and thermome-ters and hygrometers he may have and use, who doesn't regularly cast a morning glance at the sun to note the appearance of the eastern sky at sunrise. Or who doesn't associate a slightly smoky atmosphere with a dry spell. Or doesn't expect a storm when his chaumatism takes on smerial viru. spell. Or doesn't expect a storm when his rheumatism takes on special viru-

lence.

We have our weather signs, some more and some less. We have found, or think we have found that they mean something good or had about coming weather. In addition, some of us have

THIS WOMAN There's the rainbow. Its bright colors are made simply by the sunshine falling obliquely on the raindrops of a retreating shower and being by them refracted, according to a well-knewn law of light, so as to separate the rays into their original colors. It is the light on the rain which makes the rainbow. Now it has leng been known that moist air is lighter than dry air. That is, the weight of the air which overlies Connecticut is less when that air is charged with moisture than when it is hone-dry. Consequently, the thin vapor in the air rises higher. Being higher, the rising sun's rays strike it earlier and, something after the fashion of rainbow-making, are more or less refracted into

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pain, but your medicine has done so much for me that I to all suffering women. It certainly is great medicine and is a sure road to health for women. You may publish this letter if you like."—Mrs. W. C. LITTLE, R.F.D. A, Hazelburst, Ga.

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Iows chase 'em there where they happen to be. That's all there is to it. Then there's the famous drought sign. When the sun rises like a dull red boll, shining dimly through universal smoky haze, we look for a dry time. Why? Well. I frankly confess I don't know. Do you? But the fact that I don't know and that perhaps you don't, either, is no evidence that there isn't a reason for it—if we only had gumption enough to find it out. When we do find it out, it will prove to be, like all others, a simply natural result of the workings of natural law. There won't be anything mysterious about it, once we know the why and wherefore.

There are other "signs" however.

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membering that our division of the year into months is purely an arbitrary one, made solely for convenience in reckoning dates, and that it is just a human makeshift invention, what possible basis in reason can be found for supposing that Nature goes out of her way to humor our almanacs?

Year after year my neighbor chalks down on his barn door the dates of February fogs. When a May frost chances to coincide with one of them, he boasts thereof with much satisfaction. When the coincidence doesn't coincide, he keeps as still as a dumb-TEAMING and TRUCKING DONE VERY PROMPTLY AND AT oincide, he keeps as still as a dumb-REASONABLE PRICES When three final wet days in April ARTHUR H. LATHROP are followed by a wet May I am lectured about my skepticism at half-a-dozen houses. But when they are followed by a May drought and I un-

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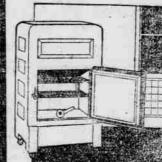


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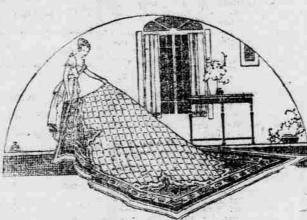


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be another winter. If the squirrels lay up unusual stores of nats in the fall there is going to be a long, hard winter. Etc., etc. Last fall my chest-nut and butternut trees were actually stripped of their nuts by the squirrels who couldn't wait for them to fall there is going to be a long, hard winter. Etc., etc. Last fall my chest-nut and butternut trees were actually stripped of their nuts by the squirrels who couldn't wait for them to fall there is going to be a long, hard winter. Etc., etc. Last fall my chest-nut and butternut trees were actually stripped of their nuts by the squirrels who couldn't wait for them to fall the squirrels who couldn't wait for them to fall the squirrels who couldn't wait for them to fall the squirrels will be a list through our misreading of them. Norwich from Poquetanuck with a spone of the population of the trees in their readerness to fill up their winter granaries. And we had the mildest win-helped sceing their shadows, if they were looking, and we hadn't any winter at all, to speak of!

The point I'm trying to make is that no every condition to guessing, because we shall know not only the heads to make shall know not only the heads to misses there is a cause for it.

The point I'm trying to make is that no make it is a cause for it and the same shall know not only the heads to misses there is a cause for it.

The point I'm trying to make is that no more plussed by the happen-lead to misses there is a cause for it.

The point I'm trying to make is that no on only the heads on the heads of the sign but be well on the road to the same shall know not only the heads to misses there is a cause for it.

The point I'm trying to make is that no one only the heads of the point I'm trying to make is the same can be a sign which never fails. And it was so non-plussed by the happen-lead to misses there is a cause for it is a c

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